

Action. Therefore, a petition (which is part of a Request for Continued Examination) and a fee for an extension of time are enclosed herewith.

In item 4 on pages 2-3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects all of the elected claims because he objects to the wording of independent Claims 1 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because all of the currently pending claims are believed to be supported by the originally filed application in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

In item 5 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects all of the elected claims because Claims 1, 21, 29, 31, and 32 are allegedly being indefinite. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because all of the currently pending claims are believed to be clear to someone with ordinary skill in the art in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In items 7-9 on page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects all of the elected claims for allegedly being anticipated by or obvious in view of the cited art. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because all of the currently pending claims are believed to be novel and nonobvious over the prior art because the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the claims of record are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any

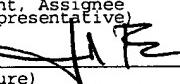
unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R § 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed; and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to Deposit Account No. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (including all of the enclosures) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

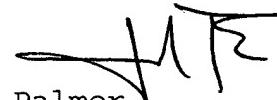
June 23, 2003
(Date of Deposit)

JOHN PALMER
(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)


(Signature)

6-23-03
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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